Discussion Guide



Cassandra in Reverse Holly Smali

MIRA 2023 368 pages

ISBN: 978-07789334538

Neurodiversity

Summary

Cassandra Penelope Dankworth is a creature of habit. She likes what she likes and strongly dislikes what she doesn't. Her life runs in a pleasing, predictable order...until now.

Questions

- 1. How does Cassandra's obsession with routine and dislike of change contribute to the events that unfold in the story?
- 2. Explore the theme of self-discovery and personal growth in Cassandra's journey through time. How does her ability to change the past impact her understanding of herself?
- 3. In what ways does Cassandra's neurodivergent nature influence her experiences and interactions throughout the story? How does the author portray neurodiversity and its challenges?
- 4. Consider the motif of control and its significance in Cassandra's story. How does her newfound ability to reverse time impact her sense of agency and her perception of the world?
- 5. Explore the theme of acceptance and self-acceptance in the novel. How does Cassandra's journey through time teach her to embrace herself?
- 6. It's revealed near the end of the book that Cassandra, like her mother, has autism. While this might not have been as surprising to you as it was for her, how did experiencing life through her eyes affect your understanding of autistic people?
- 7. Upon discovering her powers, Cassandra's first instinct is to save her parents, and the second to recover her career and relationship. What does she end up gaining despite not achieving any of those goals?
- 8. What do you think your first impressions of Cassandra would be if you met her toward the beginning of the book? Do you think you would tend towards understanding or frustration?

